

The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claims 1-4, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0125324 A1 to Yavid et al. (hereinafter "Yavid") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,304,638 to Coulter et al. (hereinafter "Coulter"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yavid teaches an electro-optical assembly for image projection, especially in portable instruments to include an arrangement for and method of projecting an image on a viewing surface including sweeping a light beam along a plurality of scan lines that extend over the viewing surface, and selectively eliminating parts of the image at selected positions of the light beam on the scan lines (Abstract). With references to pages 15 and 8 of Yavid, the Office Action alleges that Yavid is considered to teach, or at least to have suggested, several of the features recited in the pending claims. The analysis of the Office Action fails for the following reasons.

In the quoted sections of Yavid, the stylus is designed to generate a sound, for example, a clicking sound simulating a click of a button on a mouse or other pointing device, a sound which can be detected by a microphone. The stylus discussed in this section, however, does not use such a generated sound for any specific control input. The stylus, as is disclosed in paragraph [0206], is a reflective or light-sensitive stylus for enabling a screen to not only be used as a display screen, but also to be used as a touch screen, the position of the tip being readable by the display for the purpose of moving a cursor or selecting a projected icon. While this stylus is described as being capable of generating a clicking sound that can be detected by a microphone, Yavid neither teaches, nor can it reasonably be considered to have suggested, converting the clicking sound into an input operation signal simulating an operation of a specific input device.

The Office Action asserts that such a converter is considered to be disclosed at page 8, paragraph [0114]. Contrary to the assertions in the Office Action, however, this paragraph in

Yavid discusses a microphone 166 which receives an audio signal from a corresponding speaker data output 168 on a reader pen 90. The information stored in the reader pen 90 is converted to a high frequency audio signal at the speaker 168 which is received by the microphone and decoded. This paragraph describes that information stored in the reader pen 90 is received and decoded by the microphone. The information stored in the reader pen is explained in paragraph [0099], concerning Fig. 2 of Yavid, as pertaining to the reader pen having elements that also act as a data storage and processing device for read bar code information. This information is stored for later download to an external device. It is this download that is discussed in one exemplary embodiment in paragraph [0114]. In other words, the description in paragraph [0114] only describes that bar code information is transferred to the computer from the reader pen. This disclosure in Yavid, or any other disclosure in Yavid, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or even to have suggested, converting a clicking sound into an input operation signal simulating an operation of a specific input device.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a tapping sound detector configured to detect a tapping sound made by a user on a screen to generate a tapping sound detection signal; a microphone detachably attached to the screen and in communication with the tapping sound detector; a converter configured to convert the tapping sound detection signal into an input operation signal simulating an operation of a specific input device; and an operation signal output device configured to output the input operation signal. Independent claims 12 and 16 recite similar features among the many features recited in each of those claims. Yavid, as discussed above, provides no teaching, or suggestion, of such a feature.

For at least the above reason, and because Coulter is not applied in a manner which would overcome this shortfall in the application of Yavid in teaching, or reasonably being considered to have suggested, the above-identified features recited in at least independent

claims 1, 12 and 16, the combination of Yavid and Coulter cannot reasonably be considered to have suggested the combinations of all of the features recited in these claims. Further, claims 2-4 are also neither taught, nor can they reasonably be considered to have been suggested, by a combination of Yavid and Coulter for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yavid and Coulter are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5, rejects claims 5-7, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yavid in view of Coulter as applied to the above-enumerated claims, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,323,846 B1 to Westerman et al. (hereinafter "Westerman"). The Office Action, in paragraph 6, rejects claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yavid in view of Coulter as applied to the above-enumerated claims, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,466,198 B1 to Feinstein. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Neither of Westerman nor Feinstein is applied in a manner that would overcome the above-identified shortfall in the combination of Yavid and Coulter in rendering obvious the subject matter of independent claims 1, 12 and 16. As such, claims 5-11, 14, 15, 18 and 19 are also not suggested by any combination of the applied prior art references for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on independent claims 1, 12 and 16, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

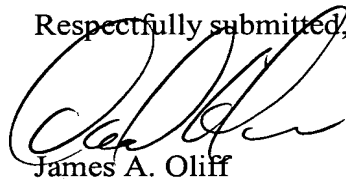
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 5-11, 14, 15, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yavid in view of Coulter, taken with either of Westerman or Feinstein, are respectfully requested.

Applicants' representative presented the above arguments to Examiner Dharia during the June 13 personal interview. The Examiner indicated that he would have to more fully consider the arguments and perform a further search in light of the information presented during the personal interview.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12, 14-16, 18 and 19, in addition to the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 13 and 17, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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